

Language Matters

Language is powerful – especially when talking about addictions.
Stigmatizing language perpetuates negative perceptions.

“Person first” language focuses on the person, not the disorder.

When Discussing Addictions...

SAY THIS

- Person with a substance use disorder
- Person living in recovery
- Person living with an addiction
- Person arrested for drug violation
- Chooses not to at this point
- Medication is a treatment tool
- Had a setback
- Maintained recovery
- Positive drug screen



NOT THAT

- Addict, junkie, druggie
- Ex-addict
- Battling/suffering from an addiction
- Drug offender
- Non-compliant/bombed out
- Medication is a crutch
- Relapsed
- Stayed clean
- Dirty drug screen



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